



Location - Begins on A-2/Red Road Junction at the "Y" east of Dubois, routing to Old Highway 91 north of Dubois to Spencer. Then east on Spencer/Idmon road connecting to Idmon/A-2 Junction and Fort Henry Historic Byway. Continue north toward Kilgore and east to Island Park, or if you choose, turn south and return to the "Y" Junction.

Length - 47.8 miles. Allow 1.5 hours.

Roadway - Two-lane roadway, no mountain passes. "Y" at A-2/Red Road Junction to Dubois, Old Highway 91 Dubois to Spencer, and 3 miles of Spencer/Idmon paved, last 11 miles of Spencer/Idmon are gravel.

When to see it - Dubois to Spencer open year around. Highway A-2 "Y" to Dubois and Spencer/Idmon road closed through winter. Closed roads often become snowmobile trails in winter.

Special attractions - Heritage Hall Museum; Historic Dubois Hotel; Dubois Visitors Center; Medicine Lodge travertine mines; Historic Wood Live Stock Rock House; Beaver Canyon; Nez Perce Trail; China Point; Idmon town site; Spencer opal shops and mines.

Camping - Forest Service Campgrounds at Stoddard and Steel Creeks (minimum facilities).

Services - Full services in Dubois. Partial services in Spencer.

Contacts - City of Dubois: 208-374-5241; Clark County Courthouse: 208-374-5304; Dubois Ranger District: 208-374-5422; Byway Information: 208-374-5330 or 208-374-5517.

Lost Gold Trails Loop

The Lost Gold Trails Loop ventures southwest through desert-lava rolling hill terrain along Highway A-2 where cattle and wild game peacefully share spring and fall months grazing. Arriving at the railroad tracks, which originated the town of "Dry Creek," later renamed Dubois, is also the historic Gateway to the Nez Perce Trail. The Trail continues west through town over I-15 overpass onto Idaho 22 to the Old Highway 91 Junction. Continue on Old Highway 91 to Spencer. This road is a favorite for hunters and fishermen. You will pass a U.S. Sheep Experiment Station historical sign and former entrance road.

This early-day Gold Trail closely followed Beaver Creek towards Montana gold mines. At Spencer the Gold Trail of yesterday becomes the Opal Trails of today because of several high grade Opal Shops within the original Wood Live Stock town site. Leaving Spencer, the Trail heads east along the foothills of the Centennial Mountains towards Idmon. Many years ago the Nez Perce used this trail to elude the U.S. Calvary. Today it is dedicated as the National Historic Nez Perce Trail and serves ranchers trailing or trucking cattle and sheep. Spurs off this main roadway trail to private opal mines, Caribou-Targhee Forest, ranches, fishing, hunting, primitive camping areas, and an old area cemetery. It is know also as the home of Sandhill Cranes, Sage Grouse, many other wild life species, and includes beautiful fields of native plants, such as the well-known Camas.

